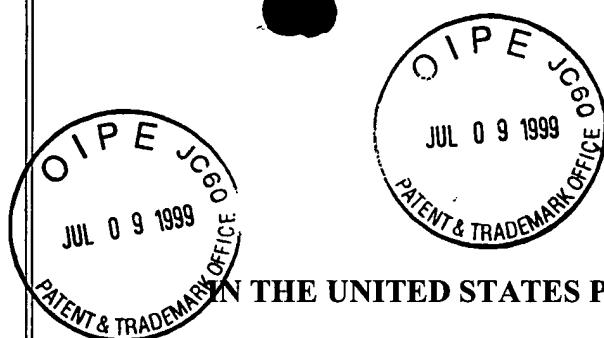


AF/1648

PATENT

Attorney Docket No.: 2356.0011-06



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

O.K. TO
RNTB2
→ 03/03/99
JUL 14 1999
In re Application of:)
Marc ALIZON et al.)
Serial No.: 09/041,975)
Filed: March 13, 1998)
For: VARIANT OF LAV VIRUSES)

Group Art Unit: 1648

Examiner: Jeffrey S. PARKIN

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7/15/99
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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO PAPER NO. 9

In response to the Office Action dated May 17, 1999 (Paper No. 9), applicants submit the following amendments and remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the following claim:

23. (Amended) A purified HIV-1 variant virus,

wherein said HIV-1 variant virus differs [genetically] at the amino acid sequence level from the group of viruses consisting of HIV-1_{IIIB}, HIV-1_{BRU}, and HIV-1_{ARV-2} greater than 3.4 % in the entire Gag protein, 3.1% in the entire Pol protein, and 13.0% in the entire Env protein,

wherein antibodies in AIDS patient sera bind to Gag, Pol, or Env polypeptides of said HIV-1 variant virus,

LAW OFFICES

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